

*The C.O.P.S Program helps hire officers and purchase technology and training*

For Immediate Release  
Olga Alvarez  
May 15, 2007  
(201) 222-2828

Contact:

(Washington, D.C.) - Today, Congressman Albio Sires voted for the Community Oriented Policing Program (COPS) Reauthorization Act of 2007, a bill that would put 50,000 more police officers on our nation's streets. The COPS program has proven to help reduce crime and provides for the purchase of technology that allows our officers to get out from behind their desks and patrol our neighborhoods.

"Our local law enforcement officers serve communities across the nation as the first line of defense," said Congressman Sires. "The number of police patrolling our streets matters for the security of every city. We have a responsibility to ensure these officers are in place."

The COPS hiring program has been one of the most successful law enforcement programs in our nation's history. Created in 1994 under the Clinton Administration, the program helped hire 117,000 additional police officers nationwide and 1,244 in the 13th congressional district. Unfortunately the COPS program was eliminated last year and, at the same time, violent crime spiked across the nation. The COPS Improvement Act would help combat violent crime in the 13th Congressional District by:

- Bringing \$30,114,332 in funding for police departments over the next 6 years;
- Putting 532 additional police officers on the streets;
- Adding 29 additional School Resource Officers in schools; and
- Awarding \$3,640,341 in technology grants to police departments that will enable them to put more officers on our streets.

"While our local police departments are working hard to combat the increases in violent crimes in our communities, they also have to contend with protecting our residents from terrorism. This bill will provide much needed assistance to our police departments that will ultimately help our country remaining vigilant and prevent harm in our communities," said

Congressman Sires.

The legislation has been endorsed by The Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, The National Sherriff's Association, and The National Association of Police Organizations, as well as the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities.

(####)